

17. The method recited in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

storing the shaped covering labels in a stack of a magazine;

extracting a label from the stack; and

unflattening the label extracted from stack prior to transferring the label to the mold.

18. The method recited in claim 15, wherein a plurality of labels are transferred simultaneously to the gripping means.

19. The method recited in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

engaging a portion of the shaped label around a mold core; and

placing the label around the mold core with use of a thrusting member.

23. An apparatus for injection molding a receptacle, comprising:

a mold having a male portion and a female portion for molding the receptacle and operable to receive a covering label that will be interfaced to the receptacle wherein the label comprises at least two edges that have been joined together; and

a movable pneumatic transfer element for pneumatically gripping the label by contacting an outside face of the label, and for depositing the label on the male portion of the mold.

24. The apparatus recited in claim 23 comprising:

a magazine for storing a group of labels in stack wherein the group of labels have been shaped and flattened; and

an element for unflattening the covering label from the flattened state to an unflattened state.

25. The apparatus recited in claim 24, wherein the unflattening element further comprises:

a blowing element interfaced with the magazine for expanding the label to unflatten the label, wherein the movable pneumatic transfer element, in communication with the blowing element, grips said outside face of the label as the label expands to said unflattened state.

26. The apparatus recited in claim 23, wherein the movable pneumatic transfer element comprises a movable pneumatic transfer support element comprising a plurality of elements for holding the shaped and expanded label and for transferring a plurality of labels simultaneously into a multi-cavity mold.

27. The apparatus recited in claim 26, wherein the movable pneumatic transfer support element comprises a plurality of cells each operable to receive at least a portion of an expanded label.

28. The apparatus recited in claim 27, further comprising a robot operable to move the movable pneumatic transfer support element relative to an axis of rotation and an axis of translation.